

Common Agenda

A common agenda is a vision for change shared by all participants that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving the problem through agreed-upon actions.

Problem

Black babies in Montgomery County **are**

2.6X

as likely to die as babies of White women

Vision

A Montgomery County where each Black child born brings hope for our future and all Black women, Black birthing people, and Black families receive the resources, opportunities, and support needed to have healthy pregnancies and welcome thriving children into the world.

Mission

To eliminate inequities surrounding race and infant mortality and support healthy births for Black women and Black birthing people, and Black families in Montgomery County.

Theory of Change

Based on the 2019 PPOR study, in order to achieve our vision, our stakeholder group identified the following actions:

Educate the community about topics and resources

Improve provider-patient relationships and communication throughout the continuum of care from preconception to pregnancy to childbirth and the postpartum period

Enhance care for pregnant and parenting women and birthing people

Expand social support and mental health counseling

Strengthen service delivery across providers, organizations and sectors

Priorities

Based on the 5 areas for action outlined in the Theory of change within the PPOR study, we are currently prioritizing these three goals (out of twelve recommendations):

Goal 1 Increase use of maternal and child health professionals such as doulas, home visitors and lactation professionals

Goal 2 Provide targeted education about reproductive health, behavioral health, overall health, and parenting that will give agency to Black birthing people and Black families

Goal 3 Increase providers' understanding of Black women and Black birthing people's experiences

Principles

Our work towards these goals must be grounded in a culture that consistently acknowledges the needs of Black women and Black birthing people. As a result, we developed the following concepts to guide our work.

1

Communities are made up of a multitude of voices and each voice is instrumental to creating systems change. We especially welcome the voices of people with the lived experience of being a Black mother or Black birthing person in Montgomery County as an equal partner at the table.

2

Eliminating racial inequities in healthcare and other institutions requires getting at the root cause of systemic issues.

3

Anti-racist, cultural humility, and trauma-informed practices are necessities in creating and sustaining equitable solutions.

4

Black women, Black birthing people, and Black families deserve access to safe and healthy care throughout the pregnancy continuum; this includes preconception, pregnancy, birthing, and post-partum care.

5

Resources must be physically, financially, and culturally accessible to all Black families.